

Our flag, affectionately referred to as "The Stars and Stripes" or "Old Glory," is a symbol of freedom and democracy widely recognized around the world. Designed by Betsy Ross in 1776, The American flag became the official symbol of our strength and commitment to democracy in 1777. While this flag has undergone numerous changes in order to represent the growing nation, it has always been a symbol of America's freedom and pros



perity.

Every year on June 14th, Americans celebrate Flag Day in remembrance of what it stands for, and who designed it. Without question our flag is a symbol of national pride and has a glorious and proud history behind it. It has led our Armed Forces into battle and many valiant warriors have died while defending it and its honor, not to mention, it is the lone flag on the surface of the moon.

I hope you take a moment on June 14th to unfurl Old Glory and display her proudly, to honor those who have come before you.

One of the services my office provides is the flying of American flags over the U.S. Capitol. [Si
mply click here to request a flag](#)

to be flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Properly Displaying Our Flag

There is a right way and a wrong way to display the flag. The American flag should be held in the highest of regards. It represents our nation and the many people who gave their lives for our country and our flag. Here are the basics on displaying the American flag:

- The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset.
- In the morning, raise the flag briskly. At sunset, lower it slowly. Always, raise and lower it ceremoniously.
- The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it.
- The flag should not be flown in the rain or inclement weather.
- After a tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half staff for 30 days. It's called "half staff" on land ,and "half mast" on a ship.
- When flown vertically on a pole, the stars and blue field, or "union", is at the top and at the end of the pole (away from your house).
- The American flag is always flown at the top of the pole. Your state flag and other flags fly below it.
- The union is always on top. When displayed in print, the stars and blue field are always on the left.
- Never let your flag touch the ground.
- Fold your flag when storing.
- When your flag is old and has seen better days, it is time to retire it.

Useful Links

[The Star Spangled Banner](#) - The Smithsonian Institution

[Digital Vaults](#) - The National Archives

[The Flag of the United States](#)

[Request a Flag to be flown over the United States Capitol](#)